

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application.

Listing Of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A vacuum processing apparatus, comprising:
 a plurality of vacuum processing chambers for processing substrates;
 cassette mount tables in an atmosphere for mounting cassettes each storing
 a plurality of substrates to be processed or which have been processed ~~substrates~~;
~~a~~ an atmospheric transfer device for transferring said substrates in the
atmosphere being capable of moving at least vertically and of being controlled such
 that ~~at least one of said~~ substrates to be processed can be taken out of any location
 in said ~~plurality of~~ cassettes mounted on said ~~plurality of~~ cassette mount tables; and
 control means (a) for transferring substrates to be processed from any
 location in ~~said any one of the cassettes mounted in on the plurality of~~ cassette
 mount tables in the atmosphere to at least one of the vacuum processing chambers
 via said atmospheric transfer device and (b) for transferring processed substrates ~~in~~
~~from~~ said vacuum processing chambers to the respective original ~~locations of the~~
positions within original cassettes, in which the substrates ~~are were~~ stored prior to
 processing, via said atmospheric transfer device.

2. (Currently Amended) A vacuum processing apparatus, comprising:
 a plurality of vacuum processing chambers for processing substrates;
 cassette mount tables in an atmosphere for mounting cassettes each storing a

plurality of substrates to be processed or which have been processed substrates;

~~a-an atmospheric~~ transfer device for transferring ~~said~~ substrates in the atmosphere being capable of moving at least vertically and of being controlled such that ~~at least one of said~~ substrates to be processed can be taken out of any location in said ~~plurality of cassettes~~ mounted on said ~~plurality of cassette~~ mount tables; and

control means (a) for transferring substrates to be processed one by one from any location in ~~said any one of the cassettes~~ mounted ~~in on~~ the ~~plurality of cassette~~ mount tables in the atmosphere to at least one of the vacuum processing chambers via said atmospheric transfer device and (b) for transferring processed substrates ~~in from~~ said vacuum processing chambers to ~~the respective original locations of the positions within~~ original cassettes one by one, in which the substrates ~~are were~~ stored prior to processing, via said atmospheric transfer device.

3. (Currently Amended) A vacuum processing apparatus, comprising:
a plurality of vacuum processing chambers for processing substrates;
a plurality of cassette mount tables in an atmosphere for mounting at least one cassette each storing at least one of substrates and at least one cassette storing at least one of dummy substrates;

~~a-an atmospheric~~ transfer device for transferring ~~said~~ substrates and ~~said~~ dummy substrates in the atmosphere, being capable of moving at least vertically and of being controlled such that ~~any of said~~ substrates and ~~any of said~~ dummy substrates can be taken out of any location in said cassettes mounted on said ~~plurality of cassette~~ mount tables; and

a control means (a) for transferring ~~said~~ substrates and ~~said~~ dummy

substrates from any location in any one of said cassettes mounted ~~in said plurality of~~
~~on the~~ cassette mount tables in the atmosphere to the at least one of the vacuum
 processing chambers via said atmospheric transfer device, and (b) for transferring
 said substrates and said dummy substrates ~~in from~~ said vacuum processing
 chambers to ~~the respective original locations of the positions within~~ original
 cassettes, in which the substrates and dummy substrates were stored prior to
processing, via said atmospheric transfer device.

4. (Currently Amended) A vacuum processing apparatus, comprising;
- a plurality of vacuum processing chambers for processing substrates;
 - a plurality of cassette mount tables in an atmosphere for mounting at least one cassette each storing at least one of substrates and at least one cassette storing at least one of dummy substrates;
 - an atmospheric transfer device for transferring ~~said~~ substrates and ~~said~~ dummy substrates in the atmosphere, being capable of moving at least vertically and
 of being controlled such that ~~any of said~~ substrates to be processed and ~~any of said~~ dummy substrates can be taken out of any location in said cassettes mounted on said ~~plurality of~~ cassette mount tables; and
 - a control means (a) for transferring ~~said~~ substrates and ~~said~~ dummy substrates one by one from any location in any one of said cassettes mounted ~~in said plurality of~~ on the cassette mount tables in the atmosphere to the at least one of the vacuum processing chambers via said atmospheric transfer device, and (b) for transferring said substrates and said dummy substrates from in said vacuum processing chambers to ~~the respective original locations of the positions within~~

original cassettes one by one, in which substrates were stored prior to processing,
via said atmospheric transfer device.